

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A urological resectoscope including:
a tubular shaft ~~(1)~~, through which an optical system ~~(2)~~ and a longitudinally moveable instrument carrier ~~(5)~~ pass,
a support device, spaced from the proximal end of the tubular shaft, and supporting the optical system ~~(2)~~ being supported with respect to the tubular shaft, ~~(1)~~ at a spacing from the proximal end of the tubular shaft ~~(1)~~ with a support device ~~(9, 12)~~ and
the carrier ~~(5)~~ being positioned with a radial positioning device ~~(10, 15)~~ and a circumferential angular positioning device ~~(11, 12)~~, positioning the instrument carrier,
wherein the support device ~~(12, 18, 18')~~ is so arranged adjacent to the optical system ~~(2)~~ in the region in which the carrier ~~(5)~~ extends, that it supports the optical system ~~(2)~~ with respect to the tubular shaft ~~(1)~~ with a two point support system and imparts lateral guidance to the carrier ~~(5)~~ in the circumferential angular direction.
2. (Currently Amended) The resectoscope as claimed in Claim ~~(1)~~ 1, wherein the support device ~~(12, 18, 18')~~ is so constructed that it brings the optical system ~~(2)~~ into engagement with the side of the tubular shaft ~~(1)~~ situated opposite to the support

device ~~(12, 18, 19')~~ in a three point support system.

3. (Currently Amended) The resectoscope as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the support device has two circumferentially spaced, fixed webs ~~(12)~~, which are each arranged in contact with the optical system ~~(2)~~ and the tubular shaft ~~(1)~~ on both sides of the carrier ~~(5)~~ and in sliding contact with it.

4. (Currently Amended) The resectoscope as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the webs ~~(12)~~ are connected to the tubular shaft ~~(1)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The resectoscope as claimed in Claim 1, including an optical guide tube ~~(4)~~ accommodating the optical system ~~(2)~~, at least in the proximal region of the tubular shaft ~~(1)~~, wherein the webs ~~(12)~~ are connected to the optical guide tube ~~(4)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The resectoscope as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the webs ~~(12)~~ have guide profiles ~~(15)~~ extending parallel to the tubular shaft ~~(1)~~ for longitudinally moveably guiding the carrier ~~(5)~~ in a radially fixed position.

7. (Currently Amended) The resectoscope as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the carrier ~~(5)~~ has strips ~~(13)~~ contacting the webs ~~(12)~~ in its longitudinal region, with which it is longitudinally moveable on the webs ~~(12)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The resectoscope as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the

support device ~~(18, 18')~~ is connected to the carrier ~~(5)~~ and is constructed to slide on the optical system ~~(2)~~ and on the tubular shaft ~~(1, 1')~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The resectoscope as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the tubular shaft ~~(1')~~ has a non-circular cross section matching the circumferential profile of the support device ~~(18')~~.

10. (Previously Presented) A urological resectoscope including a tubular shaft ~~(1)~~, through which an optical system ~~(2)~~ and a longitudinally moveable instrument carrier ~~(5)~~ pass, the optical system ~~(2)~~ being supported with respect to the tubular shaft ~~(1)~~ at a spacing from the proximal end of the tubular shaft ~~(1)~~ with a support device ~~(12)~~ and the carrier ~~(5)~~ being positioned with a radial positioning device ~~(10)~~, wherein the support device ~~(12)~~ is so arranged adjacent to the optical system ~~(2)~~ in the region in which the carrier ~~(5)~~ extends, that it supports the optical system ~~(2)~~ with respect to the tubular shaft ~~(1)~~ with a two point support system wherein the support device ~~(12)~~ is so constructed that it brings the optical system ~~(2)~~ into engagement with the side of the tubular shaft ~~(1)~~ situated opposite to the support device ~~(12)~~ in a three point support system.